

Note of the Thirty-fourth Meeting of the Ofcom Community Radio Fund Panel

Held on Thursday 20 August 2020 via Microsoft Teams

Chair's Introduction

1. The Chair welcomed to the Panel meeting the members and broadcast licensing team representatives, who were in attendance for the whole meeting. The Panel formally thanked the Ofcom team for their organisation and support.

Item 1: Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 May 2020

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 May 2020, previously circulated to the Panel, were **AGREED** as an accurate record.

Item 2: Matters arising

3. There were no matters arising that were not being dealt with under items on the Agenda.

Items 3 and 4: Grant Reports and sector update

4. The Panel **HEARD** a verbal report on the community radio sector, including the support available to Community Radio stations during the pandemic.

5. The Panel were **INFORMED** that current applicants who have previously received an award are up to date with interim and final reporting for previous or existing awards.

Item 5: Community Radio Fund applications

6. The Panel **NOTED** that 77 applications had been submitted, requesting grants totalling £355,091.

7. The Panel gave full and careful consideration to each application and awarded grants which amounted to a total of £73,658 to 31 applicants. A total of 46 applications from those under consideration were not awarded grants.

Item 6: Summary of Decisions

8. The Panel **AGREED** that a statement summarising the Panel's decisions to award the grants would be published in due course on Ofcom's website. Due to the emergency nature of the funding round for this year, names and amounts of individual grants should not be included.

Item 7: Panel Membership

9. The Panel **NOTED** that Richard Hilton's term on the Panel ends in September 2020. The Chair formally thanked Richard for his work on the Panel.

10. The Panel **NOTED** that Fiona Lennox's term on the Panel ends in January 2021.

Item 8: Any Other Business

11. There was no other business to discuss.

Item 9: Date of Next Meeting

12. It was **AGREED** that the next meeting would be held after April 2021 to award grants for the next financial year.¹ A specific date was not set.

13. There being no further business the meeting closed.

¹ Due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19, an additional £200,000 was made available by DCMS for a third funding round in 2020-21 to support community radio stations which were taking steps to tackle loneliness and isolation within their communities. The Panel met in February 2021 to consider these applications.